

25 April 1951

Dear Ike:

It was good to hear from you and kind of you to write when you are so busy. I only wish that I could make a quick trip to France and have a personal talk with you. Unfortunately, I do not see my way clear to leave here until fall but I hope in September to visit France and England for short periods. Bill Jackson, however, will be in Paris for a day or two sometime during the next six or eight weeks. He will touch base with Al Gruenther and I hope you may have time to talk with him for a few minutes.

I had two weeks fishing in Florida which I enjoyed thoroughly, wallowing in dirt and laziness. I don't think I shaved more than three times while I was there. This might have had some effect on the fishing as I didn't get many bass but the ones that did come in the boat were big--four of them over ten pounds and two of them large enough to send to the taxidermist. If you have any time at all, Charlie Rits should be able to provide you with some really good fishing on the River Andelle, where I always go.

STAT I am glad [] is doing well by you. He is a thoroughly good fellow. Bill Wyman, who has taken his place, is gradually learning the job but it is one which takes a good deal of learning. Incidentally, Lucian Truscott, who left here today, will stop by to see you in a couple of weeks. [] is with me now and is a tower of strength in his particular slot. STAT [] joins us next month. We are gradually getting good people and a firmer organization. Interdepartmental relations are excellent, although those with the JCS still leave a good deal to be desired. The matter of overseas control, regarding which I talked with you when I last saw you, is buttoned up by a brief paragraph which I wrote amending the original directive and in a manner which I believe will be entirely satisfactory to you. In effect it is what I would have written when we were operating during the war. STAT

STAT I have instructed [] to call on Al Gruenther from time to time and give you all the information he has. We also have a communications man with your Headquarters, [] STAT

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Professor Simmons told me that they were expecting you at Columbia for some ceremony in May. If so, I will come to New York and have an hour with you provided you have time. That is, unless you are going to have a day or two in Washington.

I believe I will write you from time to time and give you the confidential picture as we see it here. I can send you a personal note [] and it may be helpful to you in a small way. At the moment, the MacArthur incident is looming over Washington like a thundercloud. It has really become an emotional crisis, although I dare say that reason will assert itself eventually. In the meantime, party politics is doing everything possible to magnify it and intensify the acrimony. How unfortunate it all was. You know better than I whether it could have been avoided by firm handling earlier in the game, but it is too late to think about that now.

Matt Ridgway is having his hands full but as of this morning he seems to be calmly confident and I believe will win a victory. Enemy air remains a serious threat.

My job gets no lighter but I am feeling quite well and will feel better when I get the garden drained and the lily pond in operation with a few sunfish in it. In the meantime, I am solacing myself with an aquarium which is lots of fun.

You are missed here but your prestige has grown, if possible, with this new job. I hope you won't keep it too long.

Affectionately,

W. B. Benedict

General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower
Supreme Headquarters
Allied Powers Europe
APO 55
New York, New York

P.S. The writer of the attached letter to our mutual friend, [] (the SOB), sends this to you through me. I don't know [] but he seems to be on the right side.

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